



Water Wisdom

Issue I

Welcome to the First Issue of Water Wisdom!

The City of Lincoln instituted mandatory watering restrictions in August of 2014, and we have received a number of questions and concerns from residents over the past several months. To address them, we will respond to commonly asked questions, provide drought and conservation updates, and share water saving tips in a series of *Water Wisdom* articles in the city e-bulletin and on the city's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/LincolnCA.

We are very pleased to report that the city reduced water use by 17.4% in 2014 compared to 2013. That's a savings of 594 MILLION GALLONS! We are approaching the 20% reduction in water use called for by the state. Thank you to all the residents who are joining the conservation efforts—your small changes have created a huge ripple effect. Due to the severity of the drought, we are asking everyone to continue to be mindful of water use and conserve wherever possible.

With only two large storm systems this winter, water supplies throughout the state remain short. How bad is it? Researchers studying tree-growth rings have said that this drought is the worst in at least 1,200 years. Bill Croyle with the California Department of Water Resources says, "It's going to take a couple years of average or above-average rainfall so that we can not only fill our reservoirs, build our snowpack, but also recharge our groundwater basins. The ground is so dry, and the groundwater basins in those higher elevations have no water in them."

An article published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on January 12 states, "The rain/snow needed to reduce deficits that developed over the past four years is a lot to ask of Mother Nature, much more than a couple of storms are capable of providing."

The city is evaluating water conservation requirements in response to the recent state actions regarding the emergency water shortage. Current watering restrictions will remain in place until further notice. Remember that outdoor irrigation is allowed a maximum of 3 days per week between the hours of 10 pm and 5 am. Even numbered addresses may water Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday. Odd numbered addresses may water on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Coming soon—conservation outdoors